the current year in Andhra Pradesh under programmes like Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme, National Rural Employment Programme and Drought Prone Area Programme as also Centrally Sponsored Schemes of National "Wastelands Development Board like Rural Puelwood Plantations and Decentralised People's Nurseriea etc. In addition, the following special schemes for afforestation are also being implemented in Andhra Pradesh:—

1. Andhra Pradesh Social Forestry Project with GIDA—assistance. -Rs. 8.05 crores
2. HyderabadGreenBelt Project with FRGassistancebeing implemented by •CHETANA'anongovernmental organi sation (NGO). —Rs. 25.54 crores (for 10 years)

Increase in the price of cotton

829. SHRI M. VINCENT: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of increase in the price of cotton during the last three years;

(b) whether the percentage of increase of the distribution Price (Cooperative and private spinning mills) of cotton yarn was proportional to the increase in price of cotton; if not, what are the reasons thereof, and

(c) what measures are being taken by the Central Government to keep down the price of cotton yarn especially in the handloom sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) and (b) The price rise of cotton and cotton yarn is about 46% and 33%; respectively during the period October, 1985 to October, 1988. Although the prices of cotton yarn have increased, the increase is not in proportion to that of cotton on account of differential changes in the cost of inputs for cotton yarn and better capacity ltilisa-tion of the spinning sector.

(b) Government have taken several steps for ensuring availability of cotton yarn to handloom sector at reasonable prices, such as implementation of Hank Yarn Obligation Scheme, loan assistance to NCDC, setting up of National Handloom Development Corporation, import of 1 lakh bales of medium/long staple cotton on duty free basis for supply of cotton yarn to handloom sector.

Banking operation by foreign banks Sn India

830. SHRI M. VINCENT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that majority of the branches of foreign banks operating in India do not associate themselves with the de velopmental activities of the coun try's economy;

(b) whether it is a fact that the deposits in these branches are utilised only by the rich people of the country; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to bring forward any legislation to the effect that a percentage of their funds should be contributed towards the country's developmental activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FA-LEIRO): (a) to (c) The foreign banks function mostly in metropolitan/port towns and therefore, do not operate schemes meant for rural areas. They cater mainly to corporate borrowers and are essentially engaged in financing foreign trade and industry.

Reserve Bank of India had earlier advised the foreign banks operating in India to increase their involvement in financing small scale industry retail trade, self employed per-sons etc. The Reserve Bank of India has recently reviewed the position